Uranium and Silica from Lambapur in Andhra Pradesh

108. SMT. BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the follow-up action taken on the remote sensing satellite pictures of Uranium and silica obtained from Lambapur area in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether this Uranium can be gainfully exploited;

(c) whether any pilot project has been planned; and

(d) what is the cost-benefit of this Uranium for the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) Discovery of uranium -deposit at Lambapur was followed up by exploratory drilling to prove subsurface continuity of the mineralisation.

(b) From the data acquired so far, it is expected that uranium can be gainfully exploited from this deposit in the areas where the uranium ore horizons occur at a very shallow depth of about 40 metres.

(c) No, Sir. Project for exploitation would be considered only when sizeable reserves are proved.

(d) Assessment of the cost benefit of these deposits will have to wait detailed investigations.

Petrol Pumps and Gas Agencies allotted under Handicapped Quota

109. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:
SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of applications are pending with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for allotment of gas agencies/petrol pumps to the handicapped/ disabled persons -under the reserve quota, for the last two years;

(b) the number of applications received from Uttar Pradesh during the above period, the number of cases finalised and the number of persons who have been allotted agencies, district-wise; and

(c) if no action has been taken so far, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Applications are received from time to time from different categories of people including physically handicapped for allotment of dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products under discretionary quota of the Government. During the last 2 years i.e. 1994-95 & 1995-96, 32 RO and 16 LPG distributorships were allotted by the Government in Uttar Pradesh on compassionate grounds.

Government is not making any discretionary allotment of dealership/ distributorship of petroleum products at present.

Fund under RGNDWM in Andhra Pradesh

110. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise allotment of funds under RGNDWM Andhra Pradesh for drinking water supply schemes during 1995-96 and the current year;

(b) whether the funds allotted for the purpose are being properly allocated to different districts of the State; and

(c) whether it is a fact that some districts have been given lop sided weightage in release of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) The Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission allocate funds to the States/UTs District-wise/ Scheme-wise allocations are decided by the.

respective States. The Central Government do not maintain district-wise information but monitor the implementation of the programme at the Sate/UT level.

Conference of Energy Secretaries and SEB Chiefs

111. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL. Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference of Energy Secretaries and State Electricity Board Chiefs was convened recently by the Power Ministry as a follow up of last month's Chief Ministers Conference on evolving a common minimum power policy;

(b) whether it is a fact that States have rejected Power Ministry's proposals as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 5th November, 1996; and

(c) if so, what are the .reasons for the lack of consensus between Central Government and States in this regard and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Deviations from Rules for the S.S. Bhatnagar Awards

112. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of reports concerning deviations from normal rules for the S.S. Bhatnagar Awards announced this year;

(b) has the matter been enquired into; and

(c) whether such an enquiry has already substantiated the allegations; if so, the measures proposed to avoid repetition of similar incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGENDRA K.ALAGH): (a) and (b)The S.S. Bhatnagar Awards for 1996, announced on 26th September, 1996, fuifir the guidelines governing the Awards. No deviations from normal rules have been observed or reported. However, the basis of the SSB Awards in Physics for the year 1995 to two Scientists was questioned. A new high-powered committee was constituted to go into this matter *de novo.* The Committee recommended that the award be given to one Scientist, who fulfilled all the eligibility criteria The award proposed to be given to this Scientist by the new high-powered committee was also contested in Hon'ble Delhi High Court on 26th September, 1996. The Hon'ble Delhi High Court upheld the recommendation of the high-powered committee.

(c) CSIR gives the awards on the recommendation of advisory committees. CSIR proposes to make the guidelines for this award more explicit and also advise the committees for strict compliance of these guidelines.

गुजरात में विद्युत क्षेत्र के लिए विश्व बैंक से ऋण

113. श्री चिमनभाई हरिभाई शुक्ल: क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गुजरात के विद्युत क्षेत्र में विकास, सुधार और विस्तार के लिए विश्व बैंक ने ऋण कब स्वीकृत किया था;

(ख) क्या उक्त ऋण राशि का पूरी तरह से उपयोग किया गया है;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं;

(घ) गुजरात में विद्युत क्षेत्र की पुनर्संरचना संबंधी परियोजना के कब तक शुरू होने की संभावना है, और

(ङ) इस परियोजना के लिए किन-किन क्षेत्रों का अभिनिर्धारण किया गया है?

विद्युत मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा गैर-पारंपरिक उर्जा स्रोत मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डॉ॰ एस॰ वेणुगोपालाचारी): (क) गुजरात राज्य में विद्युत क्षेत्र में सुधार और पुनर्संरचना हेतु विश्व बैंक द्वारा कोई ऋण स्वीकृत नहीं किया गया है।

(ख) से (ङ) प्रश्न उत्पन्न नहीं होते।